

FORT DAVIS (NPS)

Junction of Texas Routes 17 and 118, ☐Fort Davis

Named for then–secretary of war Jefferson Davis, this West Texas fort was established in 1854 to guard the San Antonio–El Paso road and to provide protection against predatory bands of Apache and Comanche. Located on the southern route to California, the fort became a popular way station for settlers. Fort Davis was originally built of log, but after the Civil War it was rebuilt in adobe and stone. By 1891, having outlived its usefulness, it was abandoned. It is now maintained by the National Park Service as Fort Davis National Historic Site, and its many buildings—some restored, some semiruinous—in a pristine mountain landscape, are among the most extensive and impressive of any Western frontier fort.